

**HARVEST** Sketch Plan Submittal  
August 8, 2007

Harvest Community, LLC is pleased to submit to the Chatham County Planning Department a sketch plan proposal for **HARVEST**, a unique development plan aimed to preserve the culture of farming and promote sustainability in both design and community living. The project is located along the beautiful Haw River near the Jordan Lake Dam. The site is adjacent to USACE land that provides an opportunity for creating wildlife corridors, walking trails connected to the property, and nature learning experiences for residents of the community. The B. Everett Jordan Lake office of the Army Corps of Engineers has expressed strong interest in collaborating to ensure conservation of important habitat and wildlife uses is accomplished in a way to include educational and recreational experiences of the area.

The development plan aims to conserve open spaces that will be maintained in a form of Community Supported Agriculture and low impact recreation, both representative of life on the farm. The property has a long history of agriculture dating back more than 50 years where tobacco and cotton farming transitioned more recently to soybeans and corn. The open meadows on the property provide good soils for agriculture and gardening. The plans for the project include creation of small farm plots where residents can purchase crop shares of vegetables produced on-site and can participate in the actual farming of designated plots. There are various co-ops in the area as well as the Central Carolina Community College sustainable agriculture program that may become involved with the community in an interactive way.

In addition to the vegetable farming areas the project will accommodate creation of flowers and natural vegetation for wildlife habitat in other designated open areas of the site. In these areas spaces can be used for walking, bird and butterfly watching, Frisbee, and other low impact forms of outdoor recreation. A small community building is also proposed to provide a gathering place for residents to pick-up produce from the farms, meet for coffee, or to host art fairs and educational events. The two ponds on-site will be managed in a way that improves the water quality in the ponds and supports beneficial fish and other aquatic life.

A commitment to environmental protection, conservation of resources, and green design standards has been made as part of the **HARVEST** planning and ultimately development process. The most sensitive areas of the property are protected by extensive buffers, large and well-configured lots, limited impervious areas, highly functional low impact design BMPs, and connectivity of the ecologically important areas. The project is also preparing to implement green design standards for all residential architectural designs. Water and energy conservation are just a part of this effort to make the project reflect sustainability – where the land meets the people.

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